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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Cynthia C. Morton et al. Art Unit : 1643
Serial No. : 09/394,264 Examiner : U. Winkler
Filed : September 10, 1999
Title : A NOVEL COCHLEAR GENE COCH5B2 AND USES THEREFOR

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

This is in response to the final office action mailed April 19, 2001.

In the claims

Claims 1, 30 and 34 have been amended.

-- 1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 85% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof, and which encodes a polypeptide having at least on COCH5B2 activity.

2. (Reiterated) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof.

3. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

4. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a non-COCH5B2 polypeptide.

5. (Reiterated) A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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